## BEFORE

## THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

## SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 96-318-C - ORDER NO. 96-766

IN RE: Establishment of Interim Local Exchange ) ORDER Carrier Fund to Address Revenue Impact ) on Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers ) Electing to Reduce Toll Switched Access ) Rates.

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the "Commission") regarding the Interim Local Exchange Carrier ("LEC") Fund ("the Fund" or "ILF"). Act No. 354 (to be codified as S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-9-280), which was issued by the General Assembly of South Carolina and signed by the Governor on May 29, 1996, requires that the ILF be established by the Commission on or before December 31, 1996. A docket was established to review the Commission's responsibilities under this Act. On Friday, November 1, 1996, the Parties in this docket met with the Commission Staff ("Staff") to discuss issues regarding the ILF. It appears that the Parties will not be able to reach an agreement regarding the establishment and workings of the Fund before the December 31, 1996, deadline.

Therefore, we now set this matter for hearing. A hearing on the ILF will begin at 11:00 a.m. in the Commission's Hearing Room at 111 Doctors Circle in Columbia on December 16, 1996. GTE, United Telephone Company of the Carolinas, and the local exchange

companies which are members of the South Carolina Telephone

Coalition (the "Coalition") shall pre-file testimony on or before

November 18, 1996. All other parties shall pre-file testimony on
or before December 2, 1996.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Deputy Executive Director

(SEAL)